

RESTRICTED
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

17 December 1948

Mr. Charles H. Thayer
Chief, International Broadcasting Division
Department of State
224 West 57th Street
New York, New York

Dear Charlie:

I believe I have written you about all of the matters which necessitated some action on my part as a result of [redacted] visit except your problem of handling our restricted material. Discussion of this request has taken a little time and I regret very much that the Agency does not feel justified in changing this "Restricted" slug to "Copyright". The problem involved is a much greater one than copyright. We have had some very long discussions on this subject with our Legal people and in conjunction with the BEC. The problem has many ramifications including copyright, defamation, slander, libel, unfair competition, etc. All in all it is a pretty ticklish proposition.

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Because of the objections, from a copyright standpoint, raised by our American press associations, we stopped using their material altogether. It was in order to avoid calling attention to foreign press associations that we were using their material and becoming involved with similar protests by them that we started classifying this material "Restricted". It is classified "Restricted" because of these administrative problems and not because of the content of the material.

Since this material is classified "Restricted" for administrative rather than normal security reasons, in our agency we are not required to keep or store this material in places where it will be out of view. Neither are we required to tear or shred and burn it daily. It is disposed of as trash in contrast to other classified material. I understand, however, that you do not have 24-hour-a-day physical security in your buildings such as we have in CIA.

I have discussed this problem with our security people and I am authorized to advise you that there is no objection on the part of CIA to your handling this material in a similar manner, provided you accept

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Mr. C. W. Thayer

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complete responsibility for insuring that this material is confined to official Government use, is not publicly disseminated, and does not fall into the hands of unauthorized persons.

Sincerely,

L. K. White

Concur:

Inspection & Security

Distribution:

I & S: 1
O/O: 2
Adm. Off.
LKW:gar

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